

Introduced by Senator Lara

April 9, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 109—Relative to National STD Awareness Month and National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 109, as introduced, Lara. National STD Awareness Month and National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day.

This measure would provide that the Legislature recognizes April 2014 as National STD Awareness Month, and recognizes April 10, 2014, as National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are a
2 significant health challenge facing the United States. New data
3 from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
4 suggest that there are more than 110 million total new and existing
5 infections among men and women across the nation; and
6 WHEREAS, According to the CDC, there are an estimated 20
7 million new infections of STDs annually; and
8 WHEREAS, STDs place a significant economic strain on the
9 United States’ health care system. The CDC conservatively
10 estimates that the lifetime cost of treating eight of the most
11 common STDs contracted in just one year is \$15.6 billion; and
12 WHEREAS, Many infections go undetected because they often
13 have no symptoms, but even STDs that do not have symptoms can
14 have serious health consequences. Undiagnosed and untreated
15 infections cause 24,000 women to become infertile each year; and

1 WHEREAS, Young people are disproportionately at risk of
2 infection. In 2013, Americans 15 to 24 years of age, inclusive,
3 made up just 27 percent of the sexually active population, but
4 accounted for 50 percent of the 20 million new STDs in the United
5 States that year; and

6 WHEREAS, Stigma, inconsistent or incorrect condom use,
7 limited access to health care, and a combination of other factors
8 contribute to high rates of STDs among teens and young adults.
9 In the United States, almost 40 percent of new HIV infections are
10 young people 13 to 29 years of age, inclusive; and

11 WHEREAS, Some school districts provide condoms free of
12 charge to students through condom availability programs. Condoms
13 are a proven method for reducing transmission of STDs, including
14 HIV; and

15 WHEREAS, Consistent and correct use of male latex condoms
16 can reduce, though not eliminate, the risk of STD transmission.
17 Other effective strategies for reducing STD risk include abstinence
18 from sex, mutual monogamy, reducing the number of sexual
19 partners, and vaccination for certain diseases; and

20 WHEREAS, For all individuals who are sexually active,
21 particularly young people, STD screening and prompt treatment,
22 if infected, are critical to protect a person's health and prevent
23 transmission to others; now, therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
25 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes April as
26 National STD Awareness Month; and be it further

27 *Resolved,* That the Legislature recognizes April 10, 2014, as
28 National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day; and be it further

29 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
30 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.